MATRON OF HONOR SPEECH

FOR

COLLEEN BELLENGHI

Hello everyone!! I am so thrilled to be here as Katie’s “Official” “Main” (**Do you want to say that in opening? You may want to work up to this. See how you and your sister Christina decide to handle this**) Matron of Honor. Like the song says, “Some people wait a lifetime for a moment like this….” fortunately for our family since Katie was, is, and always will be our “**Miracle Baby**”… Christina (**if you want to make a joke you can say**) … or should I say, **Mrs. Macelak** and I only had to wait **half a lifetime** for a moment like this. Of course some of you may not realize… (**Adding a little over the top stuff- remove if you think it’s too much**) mainly because we both look so **FABULOUS** (**Wait for the laugh**) but Christi- I mean **Mrs. Macelak** and I were well on our way to young adulthood when Bridezill- I mean Katie was born. What a **miracle baby** she was… and she has clearly blossomed into our beautiful **Miracle Bride**. It’s incredible how time flies…. It wasn’t so long ago that Katie didn’t even let Mike come to her birthday party…. nothing like a willful 8-year old… and now they’re MARRIED!! It wasn’t so long ago that Zac Hanson’s voice hadn’t yet cracked when he sang “Mmmm Bop….” I know… I was there… I took Katie to her first concerts!!! Would you believe just a few weeks ago Zac turned 30!!! Wow how time flies!!! And now Katie and Mike are married….

I have so many fond memories of Katie growing up. I will never forget the day she was born. Her birth was in defiance of all of the doctors’ theories…our parents may have been told they couldn’t have any more kids but **HAH**!! What did the doctors know?!?! As Miracle Baby grew into Miracle Child, she filled the house with joy and laughter, adventures and well… let’s be honest… **demands**…. Miracle children tend to get what they want in life, but with Katie she’s taken those experiences and …. oh who am I kidding? … **Still** gets her way…. But she’s got the biggest heart and I am honored to call her my best friend as well as my sister.

Katie and I had some great times growing up… well, as **SHE** was growing up… I remember driving her to the concerts she would go to… we saw the Backstreet Boys and Hanson several times. I have vivid memories of Katie being enchanted with my senior prom…. mainly because she’s in **every** picture (**Maybe you want to hold up a blow up of a funny outtake of Katie with you and your date on prom night and wait for the laugh**). I remember taking her to the store and people thinking I was her mother…. It’s funny how time lends perspective… now I don’t think of those incidents as embarrassing… now I see them as great practice for being a hot young looking mama!!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).

This love story of Mike and Katie really brings home the point that life works in mysterious ways and when something is meant to be, it’s meant to be. I think it’s incredible and touching and almost mystical that Mike and Katie knew each other way back… they first met in grade school but at the time there were no blips on her radar. Okay…. she was only a kid. And even though they had lots in common, including our cousin Jimmy, she wasn’t having it, in fact as I said earlier, Jimmy wasn’t even allowed to bring Mike to her birthday party. But Katie, I am sure you can now see that destiny works whether we are aware or not. Although you moved away in 6th grade, several years ago you returned to Pennsylvania….. and maybe fate called you back. There was Mike… steadfast…. saintly… obsessed with fantasy football… but fortunately and eventually you realized that this guy really is **your home**. You reconnected about 6 years ago and the rest is history. You rekindled as friends and here we are eating wedding cake!!

All of our lives have been so intertwined and it’s one of the best parts of life to have such continuity genuinely appreciated and shared. It’s what makes this marriage and our family that much more special to all of us. Katie and Mike knew each other as kids; Mike is good friends with our cousin Jimmy who is like a brother to Katie. Our sister Christina AKA my co- Matron of Honor played a key role… and yes, Mike, even though she has **LOTS** of former students in this group I hope by now you finally feel comfortable calling her by her first name and **NOT** Mrs. Macelak… you’re **related** now!! I also love that my daughters, Emily and Abby, are about the same age difference as there is between Katie and me, and YES, Katie, I did train Emily to get into **YOUR** prom pictures (**maybe find a pic of this and hold it up too**) … I love the relationship you have with my girls. You’re a wonderful godmother and most of all, you’re like their great big sister…. and thanks to you, Emily and Abby have a new found appreciation of Hanson!! Talk about the circle of life!!

So as Mrs. Macelak might have taught in one of her 7th grade math lessons, let’s review. One plus one equals **ONE**… That is one heart … yours Katie… and one heart… Yours Mike, equals one beautiful, strong, respectful, caring and loving marriage. Mike, may you use your math skills to excel in Fantasy Football and Katie, may you use yours to figure out how football math is scored. May your hearts both continue to **beat** in tandem…. Just… **DON’T TOUCH HIS DRUM KIT**. (**That’s from “Step Brothers”… and wait for the laugh**) and Katie… on date night, try to steer clear of sketchy Brazilian barbecue joints… if you know what I mean… **(-That’s from Bridesmaids… Wait for the laugh**). (Do you want to mention your husband?) On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , Emily and Abby, we wish you both a lifetime of love and happiness and even more than you both might ever wish for… Congratulations to our **Miracle Couple**! We love you!!